

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-5 are presently pending. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 6-8 are newly added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Page 2 of the Office Action sets forth "Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida (JP: 2003-308783)...." Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1-3

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

...plural data electrodes disposed on the second substrate...at least one data electrode of the data electrodes being wider at opposite peripheral portions of the second substrate than in a central portion of the second substrate.

This means that plural data electrodes are disposed on the second substrate. At least one of the data electrodes is wider at opposite peripheral portions of the second substrate than it is in a central portion of the second substrate. This feature is found, for example, in the original application at page 12, lines 2-7, and FIG. 4A. No new matter is added.

Uchida is directed to a plasma display panel. As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 3, for example, Uchida discloses a plasma display panel having a plurality of rear electrodes 1A and 1C. Rear electrodes 1A and 1C are wide at one end and narrow at an opposite end. Rear electrodes 1C taper from a wide top end to a narrow bottom end. See Uchida at FIGS. 1 and 3. Additionally, as illustrated in FIG. 5, for example, Uchida discloses a plasma display panel having a plurality of rear electrodes 1E, 1F, 1G, and 1H. Rear electrodes 1E-1H are arranged such that they decrease in width as they go from the left side to the right side of the plasma display panel.

Uchida fails to disclose or suggest an electrode having a wide portion at both ends and a narrow portion in the middle. This is different from the claimed invention because claim 1

requires a data electrode that is wider at opposite peripheral portions of the substrate than in a central portion of the substrate. To the contrary, Uchida only discloses an electrode that is wider at one peripheral portion, but not the opposite peripheral portion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Uchida fails to disclose "at least one data electrode...being wider at opposite peripheral portions of the second substrate than in a central portion of the second substrate," as recited in claim 1.

It is because Applicants' claimed invention includes a data electrode that is wider at opposite peripheral portions of the substrate than in a central portion of the substrate that the following advantages are achieved. "Writing discharging that is stable over the whole display screen is enabled by designing data electrodes 10 in this way." See the originally filed application at page 12, lines 11-13.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3 include all of the features of claim 1, from which they depend. Thus, claims 2 and 3 are also allowable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 5

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 4, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

...plural data electrodes disposed on the second substrate...
wherein data electrodes disposed at opposite peripheral portions
of the second substrate are wider than a data electrode disposed
in a central portion of the second substrate.

This means that plural data electrodes are disposed on the second substrate. Data electrodes disposed at opposite peripheral portions of the second substrate are wider than a data electrode disposed in a central portion of the second substrate. This feature is found, for example, in the original application at page 17, lines 20-24, and FIG. 7A. No new matter is added.

As described above, Uchida is directed to a plasma display panel. As illustrated in FIG. 5, for example, Uchida discloses a plasma display panel having a plurality of rear electrodes 1E, 1F, 1G, and 1H. Rear electrodes 1E-1H are arranged such that they decrease in width as they go from the left side to the right side of the plasma display panel. See Uchida at FIG. 5.

Uchida fails to disclose or suggest electrodes at both ends of the substrate being wider than electrodes in the middle. This is different from the claimed invention because claim 4 requires that data electrodes disposed at opposite peripheral portions of the substrate are wider than a data electrode disposed in a central portion of the substrate. To the contrary, Uchida only discloses an electrode that is wider at one peripheral portion of the substrate and an electrode that is narrower at the opposite peripheral portion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Uchida fails to disclose "data electrodes disposed at opposite peripheral portions of the second substrate are wider than a data electrode disposed in a central portion of the second substrate," as recited in claim 4.

It is because Applicants' claimed invention includes data electrodes disposed at opposite peripheral portions of the substrate are wider than a data electrode disposed in a central portion of the substrate that the following advantages are achieved. "Therefore, deterioration of display quality by discontinuity of the brightness does not occur." See the originally filed application at page 18, lines 8-9.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 4 is allowable over the cited prior art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 includes all of the features of claim 4, from which it depends. Thus, claim 5 is also allowable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 4. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Applicants herein add new claims 6-8.

Claim 6 includes all of the features of claim 1, from which it depends. Thus, claim 6 is allowable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Claim 6 recites additional features that are neither disclosed nor suggest by the art of record,

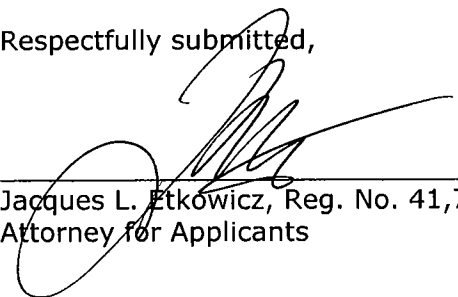
namely "the at least one data electrode is substantially symmetrical from a central portion of the electrode to each end portion of the electrode." Support for this feature is found in the originally filed application at page 12, lines 7-11. No new matter is added. For at least the above reasons, allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 includes all of the features of claim 4, from which it depends. Thus, claim 7 is allowable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 4. Claim 7 recites additional features that are neither disclosed nor suggest by the art of record, namely "the data electrodes disposed at opposite peripheral portions of the second substrate are arranged symmetrically by width with respect to the data electrode disposed in the central portion of the second substrate." Support for this feature is found in the originally filed application at page 18, lines 14-23. No new matter is added. For at least the above reasons, allowance of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Claim 8, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to the allowable features of allowable claim 1. Specifically, claim 8 recites "the data electrodes are wider in a top and bottom peripheral portion than in a central portion of a display screen." Accordingly, allowance of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

In view of the arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: October 26, 2009

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